

The Washington Post

This Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone February 21-24, 2013, among a random sample of 1,156 adult residents of Maryland. Interviews were conducted on both conventional and cellular phones. The results from the full survey have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt SRBI, Inc of New York, NY.

Produced for the Washington Post by Capital Insight.

* = less than .5 percent



1. Do you think things in the state of Maryland are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

| | Right direction | Wrong track | No opinion |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| 2/24/13 | 41 | 48 | 12 |
| 2/24/13 RV | 39 | 50 | 11 |
| 10/15/12 RV | 48 | 44 | 8 |
| 1/26/12 | 47 | 44 | 9 |
| 10/22/10 RV | 46 | 48 | 6 |
| 9/26/10 | 40 | 49 | 11 |
| 5/6/10 | 39 | 49 | 12 |
| 10/20/08 RV | 31 | 63 | 6 |
| 10/22/07 | 46 | 47 | 7 |
| 10/26/06 LV | 57 | 39 | 5 |
| 6/25/06 RV | 44 | 50 | 6 |
| 1/7/04 | 57 | 35 | 9 |
| 10/24/02 LV | 42 | 51 | 7 |
| 10/22/98 RV | 54 | 36 | 10 |
| 6/17/98 | 53 | 34 | 13 |
| 12/19/93 | 33 | 56 | 11 |

2. Which of the following issues do you think is the biggest problem facing the state of Maryland these days: (crime), (taxes), (the state economy), (public education), (transportation), (gun violence), (growth and development) or something else?

| | 2/24/13 |
|------------------------|---------|
| Taxes | 19 |
| The state economy | 19 |
| Public education | 16 |
| Crime | 15 |
| Gun violence | 13 |
| Something else | 7 |
| Transportation | 5 |
| Growth and development | 4 |
| No opinion | 2 |



3. Generally speaking, how would you rate the overall economy of Maryland: excellent, good, not-so-good or poor?

| | | - Excellent/Good- | | | --- Not-so-good/Poor --- | | | No |
|----------|----|-------------------|------|------|--------------------------|-------------|------|---------|
| | | NET | Exc. | Good | NET | Not-so-good | Poor | opinion |
| 2/24/13 | | 47 | 2 | 45 | 52 | 38 | 13 | 1 |
| 2/24/13 | RV | 46 | 2 | 44 | 53 | 40 | 13 | 1 |
| 10/15/12 | RV | 52 | 3 | 49 | 47 | 34 | 13 | 1 |
| 1/26/12 | | 47 | 3 | 44 | 52 | 39 | 13 | 1 |
| 10/22/10 | RV | 45 | 2 | 43 | 54 | 40 | 15 | 1 |
| 9/26/10 | | 40 | 3 | 37 | 59 | 43 | 16 | 2 |
| 5/6/10 | | 41 | 3 | 38 | 57 | 42 | 15 | 2 |
| 10/22/07 | | 64 | 6 | 58 | 35 | 24 | 10 | 1 |
| 1/7/04 | | 63 | 4 | 59 | 36 | 28 | 8 | 1 |
| 10/24/02 | LV | 57 | 3 | 54 | 42 | 33 | 9 | 1 |
| 10/22/98 | LV | 76 | 8 | 67 | 23 | 18 | 4 | 2 |
| 6/17/98 | | 75 | 8 | 67 | 23 | 17 | 6 | 3 |

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Martin O'Malley is handling his job as governor? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

| | | ----- Approve ----- | | | ----- Disapprove ----- | | | No |
|----------|-----|---------------------|----------|----------|------------------------|----------|----------|-------|
| | | NET | Strongly | Somewhat | NET | Somewhat | Strongly | opin. |
| 2/24/13 | | 49 | 16 | 33 | 41 | 13 | 28 | 10 |
| 2/24/13 | RV | 49 | 16 | 33 | 44 | 14 | 30 | 7 |
| 10/15/12 | RV | 49 | 18 | 31 | 41 | 14 | 28 | 9 |
| 1/26/12 | | 55 | 16 | 39 | 36 | 15 | 21 | 9 |
| 10/22/10 | RV* | 55 | 21 | 34 | 36 | 15 | 21 | 9 |
| 9/26/10 | | 57 | 20 | 37 | 33 | 16 | 17 | 11 |
| 5/6/10 | | 54 | 17 | 37 | 34 | 17 | 17 | 12 |
| 10/20/08 | RV | 53 | 14 | 39 | 37 | 16 | 21 | 10 |
| 10/22/07 | | 53 | 12 | 40 | 36 | 18 | 19 | 11 |

*"Regardless of how you may vote..."

Compare to:

Bob Ehrlich:

| | | -----Approve----- | | | -----Disapprove----- | | | No |
|----------|-----|-------------------|----------|----------|----------------------|----------|----------|-------|
| | | NET | Strongly | Somewhat | NET | Somewhat | Strongly | opin. |
| 10/26/06 | LV | 55 | 30 | 25 | 42 | 19 | 23 | 3 |
| 6/25/06 | RV | 56 | 21 | 36 | 41 | 21 | 20 | 3 |
| 1/7/04 | RV | 64 | 23 | 41 | 29 | 17 | 12 | 8 |
| 1/7/04 | All | 62 | 21 | 42 | 28 | 17 | 11 | 10 |

Parris Glendening:

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| 10/24/02 | LV | 37 | 9 | 29 | 58 | 22 | 37 | 4 |
| 10/22/98 | LV | 54 | 16 | 38 | 40 | 21 | 19 | 6 |
| 6/17/98 | LV | 55 | 14 | 41 | 36 | 19 | 18 | 9 |

5. For each of the following issues, please tell me whether you think governor O'Malley is doing an excellent job, good, not-so-good or poor job in dealing with the issue:

2/24/13 Summary table:

-Excellent/Good- ---Not-so-good/Poor--- No

| | NET | Exc. | Good | NET | Not-so-good | Poor | Opin. |
|------------------------------------------------|-----|------|------|-----|-------------|------|-------|
| a. improving access to health care in Maryland | 48 | 6 | 42 | 41 | 25 | 16 | 11 |
| b. making college education more affordable | 40 | 7 | 33 | 50 | 33 | 17 | 11 |
| c. cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay | 52 | 4 | 48 | 34 | 23 | 11 | 14 |
| d. balancing Maryland's budget | 40 | 3 | 36 | 52 | 30 | 22 | 8 |
| e. funding Maryland's schools | 42 | 7 | 35 | 49 | 35 | 15 | 8 |
| f. handling state taxes | 39 | 3 | 36 | 56 | 32 | 24 | 5 |

*Half sample asked items a-c, other half sample asked d-e.

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

| | | ----- Approve ----- | | | ----- Disapprove ----- | | | No |
|----------|----|---------------------|----------|----------|------------------------|----------|----------|---------|
| | | NET | Strongly | Somewhat | NET | Somewhat | Strongly | opinion |
| 2/24/13 | | 61 | 41 | 20 | 36 | 9 | 27 | 2 |
| 2/24/13 | RV | 60 | 41 | 19 | 38 | 10 | 28 | 2 |
| 10/15/12 | RV | 61 | 40 | 21 | 36 | 9 | 27 | 3 |
| 1/26/12 | | 65 | 39 | 26 | 33 | 10 | 23 | 2 |
| 10/22/10 | RV | 60 | 37 | 23 | 37 | 9 | 27 | 3 |
| 9/26/10 | | 61 | 37 | 23 | 36 | 11 | 25 | 3 |
| 5/6/10 | | 62 | 40 | 21 | 34 | 10 | 24 | 5 |

7. As you may know, if the president and Congress do not agree on a budget deal, there will be big automatic cuts in military and domestic federal spending starting on March first -- do you think these automatic cuts would have a major effect, minor effect or no effect on [ITEM]? IF MAJOR/MINOR: And would the effect on [ITEM] be mostly positive or mostly negative?

2/24/13 - summary table

| | Major | Minor | No effect | No opinion |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-----------|------------|
| a. Maryland's economy | 65 | 26 | 5 | 4 |
| b. Your personal financial situation | 38 | 35 | 24 | 3 |

2/24/13 - NET table

| | | --- Positive --- | | | --- Negative --- | | | No | No |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------|-------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|--------|-----|
| | | NET | Major | Minor | NET | Minor | Major | effect | op. |
| a. Maryland's economy | | 13 | 7 | 6 | 78 | 20 | 58 | 5 | 4 |
| b. Your personal financial situation | | 13 | 7 | 6 | 59 | 28 | 31 | 24 | 3 |

Thinking about Maryland...

8. Would you favor or oppose [ITEM], if the money were used for transportation projects such as building roads, traffic management or public transportation?

2/24/13 Summary table:

| | Favor | Oppose | Depends on project (vol.) | No opinion |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------|------------------------------|------------|
| a. A new 3 percent sales tax on gasoline | 26 | 72 | * | 1 |
| b. Raising Maryland's overall sales tax from 6 percent to 7 percent | 27 | 71 | 1 | 1 |
| c. Giving counties the option of charging an additional 5-cent per gallon gasoline tax | 26 | 72 | 1 | 1 |
| d. Leasing the Inter-county Connector and other roads to private companies | 40 | 47 | 1 | 11 |

9. How big a problem is traffic congestion in your area? Would you say a major problem, minor problem, or not a problem?

| | Major problem | Minor problem | Not a problem | No opinion |
|---------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| 2/24/13 | 36 | 41 | 22 | * |

10. Which state do you think does a better job attracting new businesses and promoting economic growth, (Maryland) or (Virginia?)

| | Maryland | Virginia | Same (vol.) | No opinion |
|----------|----------|----------|-------------|------------|
| 2/24/13 | 27 | 55 | 2 | 17 |
| 10/22/98 | 25 | 52 | 3 | 20 |

On another subject,

11. Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for people convicted of murder?

| | Favor | Oppose | No opinion |
|----------|-------|--------|------------|
| 2/24/13 | 54 | 41 | 5 |
| 1/26/12 | 52 | 43 | 5 |
| 5/6/10 | 60 | 32 | 8 |
| 10/22/07 | 60 | 35 | 5 |

12. Do you feel that the death penalty acts as a deterrent to murder - that it lowers the murder rate - or not? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

| | NET | Yes Strongly | Yes Somewhat | NET | No Somewhat | No Strongly | No opinion |
|---------|-----|-----------------|-----------------|-----|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 2/24/13 | 35 | 19 | 15 | 61 | 18 | 43 | 4 |

13. Generally speaking, do you believe the death penalty has been applied fairly or unfairly in Maryland?

| | Fairly | Unfairly | No opinion |
|---------|--------|----------|------------|
| 2/24/13 | 43 | 32 | 25 |

14. (Critics of the death penalty in Maryland say it is immoral, has been unfairly applied and should be abolished -- replaced by life in prison with no chance for parole). (Supporters of the death penalty in Maryland say it should remain an option for those convicted of committing the most terrible crimes). Which view is closer to your own, that Maryland law should allow for the death penalty or should the death penalty be abolished and replaced with life in prison with no chance of parole?

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| | Maryland law should allow for the death penalty | Death penalty should be abolished | No opinion |
| 2/24/13 | 60 | 36 | 4 |

15. One proposal aimed at meeting the state's renewable energy goals is to fund new off-shore wind-power facilities, which would be paid for by raising monthly electricity bills by about one dollar and fifty cents for the average Marylander and higher bills for businesses. Would you support or oppose such a plan for wind power in the state?

| | | | |
|----------|---------|--------|------------|
| | Support | Oppose | No opinion |
| 2/24/13 | 58 | 39 | 4 |
| 1/26/12* | 55 | 42 | 3 |

*"... which would be paid for by raising monthly utility bills by a couple of dollars..."

On another subject,

16. Do you favor or oppose stricter gun control laws in this country?

| | | | |
|---------|-------|--------|------------|
| | Favor | Oppose | No opinion |
| 2/24/13 | 63 | 34 | 2 |

17. How about in Maryland, do you favor or oppose stricter gun control laws in the state?

| | | | |
|---------|-------|--------|------------|
| | Favor | Oppose | No opinion |
| 2/24/13 | 62 | 36 | 2 |

18. Specifically, would you favor or oppose prohibiting the sale of all handguns? Do you favor/oppose strongly or somewhat?

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|-------------------|----------|----------|--------------------|----------|----------|---------|
| | ----- Favor ----- | | | ----- Oppose ----- | | | No |
| | NET | Strongly | Somewhat | NET | Somewhat | Strongly | opinion |
| 2/24/13 | 28 | 20 | 8 | 70 | 23 | 47 | 2 |
| 12/19/93 | 51 | -- | -- | 46 | -- | -- | 3 |

19. Would you support or oppose a law requiring [ITEM]? Do you feel that way strongly, or only somewhat?

1/13/13 - Summary Table*

| | ----- Support ----- | | | ----- Oppose ----- | | | No |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|-------|--------------------|-------|-------|---------|
| | NET | Strg. | Smwt. | NET | Smwt. | Strg. | opinion |
| a. Placing an armed guard in every school in Maryland | 58 | 44 | 14 | 39 | 13 | 26 | 3 |
| b. A nationwide ban on high-capacity ammunition clips, meaning those containing more than 10 bullets | 61 | 51 | 10 | 36 | 11 | 25 | 3 |
| c. A nationwide ban on the sale of assault weapons | 63 | 56 | 7 | 35 | 11 | 25 | 2 |
| d. Background checks on people buying guns at gun shows | 89 | 82 | 7 | 10 | 3 | 7 | 1 |
| *Half sample asked items a and b, other half sample asked c and d. | | | | | | | |

20. One proposal to address the gun issue would require Maryland residents to apply for a license before purchasing any handgun. They would have to submit fingerprints to state police, complete an eight-hour gun safety course and pass a background check. Do you support or oppose such a licensing requirement in Maryland? Do you feel that way strongly, or only somewhat?

| | ----- Support ----- | | | ----- Oppose ----- | | | No |
|---------|---------------------|----------|----------|--------------------|----------|----------|---------|
| | NET | Strongly | Somewhat | NET | Somewhat | Strongly | opinion |
| 2/24/13 | 85 | 73 | 12 | 15 | 3 | 12 | * |

21. (IF OPPOSE LICENSING REQUIREMENT) Which part of this licensing program do you oppose the most - requiring submission of fingerprints to police, the gun safety course or the background check?

| | Requiring submission of fingerprints to police | Gun safety course | Background check | Combination/All/Other (VOL) | No op. |
|---------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| 2/24/13 | 39 | 20 | 11 | 28 | 3 |

22. Current state law bans gun purchases by people who have been involuntarily committed to a psychiatric facility for 30 or more consecutive days. Do you think this law is too strict, not strict enough or is about right?

| | Too strict | Not strict enough | About right | No opinion |
|---------|------------|-------------------|-------------|------------|
| 2/24/13 | 4 | 33 | 61 | 2 |

23. How big a problem is gun violence in your community? Would you say a major problem, minor problem, or not a problem?

| Major | Minor | Not a | No |
|-------|-------|-------|----|
|-------|-------|-------|----|

| | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | problem | problem | problem | opinion |
| 2/24/13 | 24 | 36 | 38 | 1 |

24. Thinking ahead to 2016, between (Martin O'Malley), (Hillary Clinton), (Joe Biden) and (Andrew Cuomo) whom would you like to be the next Democratic presidential nominee?

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------|------------|
| | Hillary Clinton | Joe Biden | Martin O'Malley | Andrew Cuomo | (VOL) None/Any/Other | No opinion |
| 2/24/13 | 46 | 14 | 7 | 5 | 17 | 11 |
| Leaned Dems | 56 | 18 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 9 |
| Leaned Dem RVs | 58 | 18 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 8 |

25. If Martin O'Malley were the Democratic nominee for president in 2016, would you definitely vote for him in the general election, would you consider voting for him or would you definitely not vote for him?

| | | | | |
|---------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | Definitely vote for him | Consider voting for him | Definitely NOT vote for him | No opinion |
| 2/24/13 | 17 | 41 | 38 | 4 |

(26 through 27 held for release.)

28. Do you or does anyone in your house own a gun, or not?

| | | | |
|---------|-----|----|------------|
| | Yes | No | No opinion |
| 2/24/13 | 29 | 70 | 1 |

29. (IF GUN IN HOUSE) Have you, yourself, purchased a gun in the past 10 years?

| | | | |
|---------|-----|----|------------|
| | Yes | No | No opinion |
| 2/24/13 | 35 | 65 | 0 |

30. (IF PURCHASED GUN IN PAST 10 YEARS) Did you buy this gun from a traditional gun store, a gun show, the Internet, a private individual, or from somewhere else (specify)?

| | | | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|----------|----------|--------------------|----------------|------------|
| | Traditional gun store | Gun Show | Internet | Private individual | Somewhere else | No opinion |
| 2/24/13 | 81 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 0 |

31. (IF PURCHASED GUN IN PAST 10 YEARS) Did you undergo a background check before you could buy this gun, or not?

| | | | |
|---------|-----|----|------------|
| | Yes | No | No opinion |
| 2/24/13 | 77 | 21 | 2 |

*** END ***